totally undermining this authority of suspension which is an improtant disciplinary authority. Though strict rules and guidelines have been laid down, the rules are very precise as to under what circumstances suspension should be done and it should not be invoked.

DR. (MS.) P. SELVIE DAS: Ultimately all disciplinary cases are referred to the UPSC ....*(Interruptions)*....

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have not permitted you to put the question. Now, Mr. Virumbi. ....*(Interruptions)*....

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Group 'A' officers of the Central Industrial Security Force are recruited through the combined Civil Services Examination for IAS, IPS and other allied services. These officers have been requesting for parity in respect of career prospects with other Central services, the recruitment for which is done through the Civil Services Examination. Sir, now I have come to know that the Government has decided to delink the recruitment of CISF officers from the combined Civil Services Examination, and has made the recruitment process same as for CRPF, BSF, ITBP, etc. The proposed delinking takes away these officers from the chosen group of allied services and places them in a totally different group for all times to come. Therefore, they may be provided with an option to opt for another comparable allied service. Why I am saying this is, the Indian Foreign Group 'B' Service has been merged with the IAS. The people who actually came through the Civil Services Examination along with the IAS and IPS are serving in the CISF. Now the Government has decided to delink them. In that case, they cannot opt for any other service. Therefore, I want a categorical assurance from the Home Minister that this will not be delinked, and that the *status quo* will be maintained to safeguard these people who are at par with the IAS officers. They are coming through the same Civil Services Examination which recruits the IAS, IPS, etc.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This supplementary does not arise out of this question. Now, Question No. 42 by Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra. There is a similar question at number 51. So, we take them together.

ISI Plots to assassinate political leaders

$*42. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) how many plots to assassinate political leaders involving ISI hands had been unearthed during 1997 and 1998, so far; and

(b) the details of counter measures proposed to be taken to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Government is aware that Pak ISI has been engineering subversion and violence in the country. Consequently, the Government has been collecting necessary intelligence and as a result three cases involving Pak ISI were detected in 1997 and six so far, during 1998, in which there were plans to assassinate Indian Political Leaders. Its suspected involvement in the Coimbatore bomb blast incidents in February this year is the subject matter of enquiry by a judicial Commission of Inquiry. In addition, some other plans could also be foiled by timely action on receipt of intelligence inputs from time to time.

(b) Security arrangements for prominent political leaders who are threatened and targeted by terrorists of various hues at the behest of Pak-ISI, have been appropriately strengthened. The measures include antisabotage/explosive checks and strict access control at the places of their visits/stay of these

$ Question No. 42 and 51 were taken together.

VIPs. Further, periodic meetings are held with the concerned agencies for taking additional measures for strengthening their security arrangements.

Intelligence inputs received from various sources are shared with State Governments and concerned agencies to ensure timely and coordinated action to neutralise the activities of groups planning to target political leaders.

ISI Activities in Southern States

$*51. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO:
DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ISI has stepped up activities in the Southern States, as reported by the Chief of Staff of Southern Army Command;

(b) if so, the steps taken to counter the activities of ISI; and

(c) the steps taken to strengthen the coastal surveillance?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Government are aware of ISI activities in the country including in the Southern States. At a Civil Military Liaison Conference held at Chennai in September, 1998, the Chief of Staff, HQ Southern Command has highlighted the point of arrest of a Pak national and an ISI agent in June, 1998 and the subsequent unearthing of an ISI network at Hyderabad in July, 1998.

(b) Sustained operations are being carried out against terrorists and subversive elements to ensure that such designs are not allowed to succeed. Government have taken several steps which include sensitising and gearing-up the Intelligence machinery, sharing of intelligence and coordinated actions by concerned Central/State agencies, border fencing and intensification of border patrolling to prevent infiltration from across the borders, modernisation of police forces, increase in number of Nakas (check posts) as well as sensitising and alerting the State Governments regarding movements of Pak ISI agents, anti-national elements and insurgents etc.

Information relating to activities of enemy agents is being shared by the Army authorities with their civilian counterparts. All formation headquarters of the Army and also Army intelligence agencies have been asked to be extra vigilant so that timely action could be taken by various agencies to tackle the ISI problem.

(c) For exercising adequate surveillance on infiltration and other anti-national activities in Coastal areas, Joint Coastal Patrolling by Customs, Police and Navy is conducted. District level coordination meetings are also held every month to share intelligence and improve security measures. Further, additional battalions of BSF have been posted in Gujarat and patrolling in sea/land in Kutch area has been intensified.

Naval detachments have been set up along the coast of Tamil Nadu.

प्रो॰ विजय कुमार मल्होत्रा: सभापति महोदय, मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूं कि अभी टाइम्स आफ इंडिया की दो हैडलाइन्स हैं—"ISI may attack Dwarkas' Somnath Temple" and "Security to go on high alert against ISI threat to temples."

यू॰एस॰ए॰ गवर्नमेंट ने भी हिन्दुस्तान में रहने वाले अपने नागरिकों से यह कहा है कि दक्षिण में 6 दिसंबर के बाद एक महीने चलने वाला जो ब्लिजक्रीग है, उसके अन्दर उनके, भारतीय नेताओं की हत्याएं करने के प्रयास किए जाएंगे, इसलिए उस दौरान सुरक्षा के लिए वे सावधान रहें, यह जो स्थिति पैदा हो रही है और जो कई जगह आर॰डी॰एक्स॰ बहुत अधिक मात्रा में बरामद हुआ

$ Question Nos. 42 and 51 were taken together.